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2014 Herd Creek Allotment
NMFS Monitoring Report

Prepared by Salmon Challis National Forest Range and Fisheries staff
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(1) Overview of proposed action and actual management (livestock numbers, on-off dates for each Unit, etc.)

Permitted Use for Herd Creek Allotment

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Gary and Jackie Ingram	*636 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 10/31	*2886

*Not to exceed 1732 Head Months

Authorized Use for 2014

Allotment	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Herd Creek	215 cow/calf	Term	6/16 – 10/31	975

On the Herd Creek Allotment, resource protection non-use for 66% of the term permitted livestock numbers is hereby granted and will be provided for until the ecological status of East Fork Herd Creek reaches a site wetland rating of at least 61, as described in Multiple Indicator Monitoring Technical Reference 1737-23 (2011).

Pasture Rotation

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date	Head Months
Lake Basin	215	6/16	8/14	424
Herd Lake	215	8/15	10/31	551
Taylor-McDonald	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest

Actual Use

Actual use for 2014 season displayed below.

Unit	Number	On-Date	Off-Date	Head Months
Lake Basin	215	6/16	8/12	416
Herd Lake	215	8/12	9/30	358
Taylor-McDonald	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest

(2) Date and location of any specific SCNF implementation monitoring data collected, including monitoring required under term and condition 1 above.

Effectiveness monitoring was performed in the Lake Basin Unit on the East Fork of Herd Creek. The MIM data was also used as the annual use monitoring since collection was after the livestock had moved out of the unit.

The Herd Lake Unit was not monitored since there are no perennial streams in this unit. The Taylor- McDonald Unit will be monitored for range readiness prior to 2015 turnout.

(3) Results from all implementation and effectiveness monitoring identified as part of the proposed action and this Opinion, including required annual use indicator monitoring (e.g., stubble height, riparian shrub utilization, and streambank alteration), photo point monitoring, seral condition, streambank stability, water temperature, sediment, and width to depth ratio.

Implementation

Utilization Standards

Unit	Indicator	Standard	2014 End of Season Results
Taylor/McDonald	Greenline	N/A	N/A
	Bank Alteration		
	Woody Browse		
Lake Basin	Greenline	>6”	3.4”
	Bank Alteration	<10%	6%
	Woody Browse	<30 [A] or 50 [B] %	25.1%

Herd Lake	Greenline	None[1]	N/A
	Bank Alteration	None[1]	N/A
	Woody Browse	<30[A] or 50 %[B]	(Not collected)

[A] Single-stemmed species [B] Multi-stemmed species [1] There are no perennial streams in this unit on the Herd Creek Allotment

Effectiveness

A full MIM was conducted on the East Fork of Herd Creek in the Lake Basin Unit on 8/28/2014 following the departure of livestock from this area. The last effectiveness monitoring on the East Fork of Herd Creek was performed in 2009.

2009 – 2014 MIM Summary Analysis Comparison

East Fork Herd Creek	2009	2014
Greenline Ecological Status	47 Mid	58 Mid
Wetland Rating	77 Good	58 Fair
Winward Greenline Stability Rating	NA	5.2 Mid
Streambank Stability	56%	85 %
Greenline to Greenline Width	2 m	2.12 m
Shade Index	97%	0.22
Woody Age Class	Seedlings & Young:45% Mature:55%	Seedlings: 25% Young: 47% Mature: 27%

(4) Discussion of any unauthorized use and/or any maintenance issues related to fences or water developments.

None.

(5) Brief review of Allotment management and compliance successes and failures.

Failures

Multiple indicator monitoring indicated that the ecological status of East Fork Herd Creek did not reach a site wetland rating of at least 61 on the Herd Creek Allotment. Ecological status at this site in 2014 was 58. Resource protection non-use for 66% of the term permitted livestock numbers will continue until the ecological status of East Fork Herd Creek reaches a site wetland rating of at least 61, as described in Multiple Indicator Monitoring Technical Reference 1737-23 (2011).

Successes

This permit was in non-use for many years which has allowed the allotment to recover from past over-utilization. In 2013 the allotment was lightly grazed; a field inspection in August showed that cows were scattered and salted appropriately. A rider was employed and the cattle were removed early from the allotment due to wolf activity. Similar conditions existed in 2014 demonstrating an improvement in range conditions in Taylor- McDonald Creek units, and a decrease in permittee's allotment utilization due to wolf activity. The permittee successfully moved cattle throughout the allotment without violating the August 15th cutoff date to cross Herd Creek in order to protect Chinook spawning. No violations were reported throughout the grazing season on the units being rested.

(6) Any relevant information that becomes available regarding Snake River Basin steelhead or spring/summer Chinook salmon habitat trends and/or spawning locations that would modify the assumptions made in this Opinion or result in effects not considered.

No additional information became available in 2014.

(7) A clear description of compliance with the terms and conditions contained in this ITS.

To implement RPM #1, the SCNF shall ensure that:

a. The proposed action, including all described conservation measures, monitoring, and adaptive management processes are implemented as described in the BA and proposed action section of this Opinion. Vegetation monitoring was completed as described in the BA, but no fisheries monitoring was completed in 2014.

b. The extent of incidental take is not exceeded by ensuring streambank alteration levels do not exceed the following levels at any time during each grazing season:

c. The Allotment permittee or their employees receive training to appropriately implement the move triggers identified in the proposed action.

Yes

d. Annual meetings are conducted with the permittee to discuss specific actions necessary to protect vulnerable stream reaches with the highest potential for degradation of bank condition.

Yes

e. Frequent riding is implemented within the Allotment to inspect and repair fence lines intended to keep livestock within intended Unit boundaries. All exclosures drift fences, and water developments that reduce cattle use adjacent to streams with ESA-listed fish species are properly maintained and functioning as intended.

No known infractions in 2014.

f. Turnout dates, move triggers, and end-point indicators, as well as responsible parties, are outlined in the grazing permit's annual operating instructions to the permittee.

Yes

To implement RPM #2 (monitoring and reporting), the SCNF shall ensure that:

a. The DMA or MIM on each Allotment Unit annually authorizes for use is annually monitored to determine compliance with all identified annual use indicators identified in the proposed action. The report shall also identify any modifications to move-triggers or annual indicators that result from implementing the adaptive management strategy.

b. An end-of-year report is available to NMFS.

Yes

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(8) Any management recommendations for subsequent years.

Continue to monitor the controlled burn in the area for aspen regeneration and bluebunch/fescue/sage recovery to ensure that grazing is not impeding the recovery of the upland areas and riparian areas in McDonald, Taylor, and Sage Creeks.

Photographs:

Effectiveness / Implementation Monitoring site in Lake Basin Unit on the East Fork of Herd Creek looking upstream from the start of the DMA and downstream from the end of the DMA.

A view from across both sides of the stream bank at the lower end of the DMA in Lake Basin Unit on the East Fork of Herd Creek

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A view from across both sides of the stream bank at the upper end of the DMA in Lake Basin Unit on the East Fork of Herd Creek